TASK FORCE ON THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION
OF DONALD J. TRUMP,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: [redacted]

Friday, September 13, 2024

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held at 245 Pittsburgh Road, Suite 300, Butler, PA, commencing at 1:03 a.m.

Appearances:

For the TASK FORCE ON THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF DONALD J. TRUMP:

[redacted], SENIOR COUNSEL

[redacted], SENIOR COUNSEL

[redacted], MINORITY INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL

[redacted], LEGISLATIVE ATTORNEY, CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

For [redacted]:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]. Today is Friday, September 13, and this is a transcribed interview

of [redacted]. House Resolution 1367 directed this task force to investigate the facts and circumstances of the attempted assassination of Donald J. Trump on July 13, 2024, in Butler, Pennsylvania.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1367, Chairman Kelly and Ranking Member Crow have requested this interview as part of the task force's investigation.

Can the witness please state their name and spell their last name for the record?

[redacted]

[redacted] Thank you, [redacted]

My name is [redacted]. I am senior counsel for the task force majority. I want to thank you for coming in today for this interview. The task force recognizes and appreciates that you are here voluntarily.

You are allowed to have an attorney present to advise you during this interview. Do you have an attorney representing you in a personal capacity present with you today?

[redacted]. Yes.

[redacted] Will the counsel please identify himself for the record?

[redacted].

[redacted]. Is there also an attorney present representing Butler Township today?

[redacted] No.

[redacted]. Next, starting with the majority then minority, can the additional staff members please introduce themselves with their name, title, and affiliation.

[redacted], senior counsel, task force majority.

[redacted], investigative counsel for the minority.

[redacted]. I'm a legislative attorney with the Congressional Research Service providing support to the task force.

[redacted] Thank you all.

[redacted] before we begin, I would like to go over the ground rules for this interview.

The way this interview will proceed is as follows: The majority and minority staff will alternate asking you questions 30 minutes per side per round until each side is finished with their questioning. The majority staff will begin and proceed for 30 minutes and then the minority staff will have 30 minutes to ask questions. We will then alternate back and forth in this manner until both sides have no more questions.

If either side is in the middle of a specific line of questions, they may choose to end a few minutes past an hour to ensure completion of that specific line of questioning, including any pertinent followups.

In this interview, while one member of the staff for each side may lead the questioning, additional staff may ask questions.

There is a court reporter taking down everything I say and everything you say to make a written record of the interview. For the record to be clear, please wait until the staffer questioning you finishes each question before you begin your answer, and the staffer will wait until you finish your response before proceeding to the next question.

Further, to ensure the court reporter can properly record this interview, please speak clearly, concisely, and slowly. Also, the court reporter cannot record nonverbal answers, such as nodding or shaking your head, so it is important that you answer each question with an audible verbal answer. Do you understand?

[redacted]. Yes.

[redacted]. We want you to answer our questions in the most complete and truthful manner possible, so we will take our time. If you have any questions or do not fully understand the question, please let us know. We will attempt to clarify, add

context to, or rephrase our questions. Do you understand?

[redacted]. Yes.

[redacted]. If we ask about specific conversations or events in the past and you are unable to recall the exact words or details, you should testify to the substance of those conversations or events to the best of your recollection. If you recall only a part of a conversation or event, you should give us your best recollection of those events or parts of conversations that you do recall. Do you understand?

[redacted]. Yes.

[redacted]. Although you are here voluntarily and we will not swear you in, you are required, pursuant to Title 18, U.S. Code Section 1001, to answer questions from Congress truthfully. This also applies to questions posed by congressional staff in an interview. Do you understand?

[redacted]. Yes.

[redacted]. If at any time you knowingly make false statements, you could be subject to criminal prosecution. Do you understand?

[redacted]. Yes.

[redacted]. Is there any reason you are unable to provide truthful testimony in today's interview?

[redacted]. No.

[redacted]. Please note that if you wish to assert a privilege over any statement today, that assertion must comply with the rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.

For the chair to consider assertions of privilege over testimony or statements, witnesses or entities must clearly state the specific privilege being asserted and the reason for the assertion on or before the scheduled date of testimony or appearance.

Do you understand?

[redacted]. Yes.

[redacted] Finally, I'd like to note that the content of what we discuss today is confidential. We ask that you not speak about what we discuss here today in this interview to any outside individual in order to preserve the integrity of this investigation. For these same reasons, the marked exhibits used today will be provided to the court reporter so that they may go into the official transcript. Any copies of those exhibits will be returned to us when we wrap up.

We plan to take a 5-minute break at the end of each 30 minutes of questioning, but if you need a longer break or a break before that, let us know. We are happy to accommodate. However, to the extent that there is a pending question, we would ask that you finish answering the question before we take the break. Do you understand?

[redacted]. Yes.

[redacted]. Do you have any questions before we begin?

[redacted]. No.

MAJ

[redacted]. It is now 1:07 p.m. Majority staff will now begin its questions.

EXAMINATION

[redacted]:

Q [redacted], how long have you worked for Butler Township Police Department?

A Ten years.

Q Please also share your job title and responsibilities.

A For Butler Township as a patrolman in its day-to-day general call volume, things of that sort.

Q What's your beat in Butler Township?

A We alternate areas we cover. So one -- it's -- one day it's this area and the next day it's another area.

Q How long have you worked for Butler ESU?

A Five -- 5 or 6 years, somewhere in there.

Asst Team Leader

Q How would you describe your job title and responsibilities for that?

A I'm assistant team leader for the sniper team.

Q Could you explain the difference between Butler Township Police Department and Butler ESU?

A So Butler Township covers -- we are currently in Butler Township right now. We cover 26.2 square miles. And then Butler ESU is a county team that is involved with Butler Township, Adams Township, just varied -- varied police municipalities throughout the county.

Q In what capacity were you at the rally on July 13th, 2024?

A I was currently working for Butler Township at that point in time.

Q When did you first learn about the rally on July 13th?

A I believe the -- the 3rd. My parents texted me about it.

Q At what point had a superior or other member of law enforcement tell you about the event?

A It was within the next day or so.

Q At that point, were you told of any particular responsibility you'd have with the event?

A Not at that time.

Q Were you able to join any of the prep meetings or walk-throughs in preparation for the rally?

A Yes. I did a walk-through with -- I did three walk-throughs, technically, two

with our sniper team and one with -- it was our team and Secret Service. It was the whole -- that would have been the July 11th walk-through.

Q Three rallies total, at least one on July 11th. Am I tracking that correctly so far?

A Three walk-throughs total, yes.

Q And the walk-through on July 11th involved which group of people?

A That was the ESU team, Secret Service, sheriff's office, emergency services, I believe. Butler Ambulance might have been there. I don't know if anybody from AHN was there. But there was -- there was a large group of people there.

Q And could you briefly go over again one more time the other two walk-throughs that you mentioned? 7/9/24

BTPD 2 PREV. walk thrus w/o S.S.

A The other two walk-throughs was July 9th. It would have been Tuesday. And that was with myself, [redacted]. I think that was it. And that was at the AGR building. 7/10/24 (+ 7/11/24 w/ S.S.)

And then next day, the 10th, myself, [redacted] walked the Farm Show grounds. (went on 7/13/24)

Q Were Secret Service present at the July 9 event -- walk-through?

A No.

Q Were Secret Service present at your July 10 walk-through?

A No. 'on own own'

Q Who directed you to attend these walk-throughs?

A It was on our own accord.

Q How did you learn about them? 'we did it ourselves'

A We did it ourselves.

Q The July 9 walk-through was with you, [redacted], and [redacted].

A Those are all ESU members.

Q And you all had known at that point that you would be working that event?

A Yes.

Q And how did you -- at what point did you come to that knowledge?

A We -- so it would have been -- I don't know. I don't know exactly what day, but it was sent out that, hey, we're -- we were requested for assisting the Secret Service with the July 13th rally.

Q And this request was to Butler ESU?

A Yes.

Q July 10, is it also correct to describe that as a walk-through of your own accord?

A Yes.

Q With Butler ESU?

A That would be, again, with [redacted].

Q And then on July 11th, the walk-through, how did -- who directed you to attend that?

A That was the day of -- I don't know. They just -- they made it known that, hey, if you're involved in planning, we want everyone there for -- for the walk-through with Secret Service.

Q Do you recall, how did -- who relayed that message to you?

A I'm assuming Commander [redacted]. I don't remember exactly.

Q When you attended that, was that in your Butler ESU capacity?

A Yes.

7/11

Q What did you -- how would you describe your route on the July 11 walk-through?

A So I got there, and we were all -- they were all down by the Brady Paul Lodge, which is -- I'm sure at this point in time you guys are aware of where that building is.

It was -- at that point, it was the ESU members there. And then we realized everyone else was up at the -- the office. So then we worked our way up there. And the best way that I can describe it was a gaggle of people. And then it proceeded to break up into little groups and talk about different stages of planning for the rally.

Q What group did you break off with?

A So I -- I primarily stayed with the ESU group. I spoke with the counter sniper team leader in person that day, [redacted], and then I also broke away myself and spoke with Agent [redacted] and Agent [redacted].

Q At that point in time, as best you can recall, did anyone mention security concerns about the AGR building at the July walk-through?

BTPD expressed security concerns

A I did.

Q And to whom did you express those concerns?

A [redacted].

[redacted] And to clarify, those concerns were expressed at the July 11th walk-through?

[redacted]. Yes.

[redacted]. Thank you.

[redacted]. What did you tell them, as best you can recall?

[redacted]. So like we said previously, we were there. We visited the AGR building the 9th. We did a walk-around on the Farm Show on the 10th. And we -- we noted -- when I say "we," myself, [redacted] -- kind of pointed out, hey, these areas of -- around the AGR building we can't specifically see from our

point of view within the AGR building.

And at the same time, I work for Butler Township. AGR building is within Butler Township. So I grew up here my entire life. And know -- so knowing these things and knowing how people of Butler work, I knew eventually people would start gathering along that fence line.

So, I mean, we talked about all these things. And those were -- those are kind of my concerns that I relayed to them. I said, hey, and I explained to them that we -- we can't cover everything. We don't have the manpower to cover it.

ESU is not a guarding post, per se. They're not going to sit there and stand guard over the AGR building. Butler Township didn't have enough guys.

So I specifically asked, I said, as this -- as the day progresses -- I explained this to, like I said, both [redacted] -- that that whole area over there, I said, it needs covered and needs people posted there. That way the general public doesn't have access to that area.

BY [redacted]:

Q What was your reaction -- what was Secret Service's reaction to your conversation with them about the area around the AGR building?

A So once I explained to them that -- and requested, hey, these areas need posted, they -- they said, hey, we understand, we copy, we'll take care of it.

Q At the July 11th walk-through with Secret Service, did you voice any concerns about the elevated positions that were on the AGR building?

A How so?

Q I know that you mentioned to the Secret Service the area surrounding the AGR building was a concern for people gathering there, but do you recall at any point raising concerns with the elevated positions on the AGR building?

PD: 'you need guys posted that way'

'nobody can access this area'

A So I did not, because once I asked of, hey, this area of our concern, you need guys posted that way nobody can access this area, in my head it wasn't -- those elevated positions were no longer a concern because it was -- at that point in time, it was my understanding that there would be guys posted there. And so now we don't have to worry about those additional positions, because soon as anybody enters that ground, they're going to be stopped, hey, you can't come over here, you need to move on.

Q I understand. What did you understand Secret Service when they told you that the area would be covered? Did you assume that local police would be responsible for covering that area or did you --

A No.

Q -- understand that Secret Service would cover that area?

A Because, like I said, I worked Butler Township that day, and I knew how many guys we had to work for the rally. So I knew, like, it was impossible for Butler Township to cover that area. So I knew they weren't going to be -- we couldn't do it. So like I said, if I knew we couldn't do it, it was my understanding that the Secret Service was going to post guys.

'Even 2P said -- what we normally do -'

Even [redacted] said -- once I explained this to him, he said, what we normally do in areas where we can't have eyes on but there's an area that needs covered, we typically post an unarmed agent with a marked patrol unit in those areas. So yeah.

[redacted]. Thank you.

BY [redacted]:

S.S. requests for BTPD Assets

Q At the point in time of the walk-through on July 11th, did Secret Service make any requests of Butler ESU for the assets that they needed?

A Did you say before the walk-through or at the walk-through?

Q At the walk-through.

S.S. requests to BTPD: QRF team (x2), counter-assault team, ... next day -- sniper units.

A No, they made those requests beforehand.

Q Beforehand. And what were those requests?

A And this is my knowledge of coming from Commander [redacted], because he is the one that received those requests. It was a QRF team -- or two QRF teams, a counter assault team. And initially it was not sniper units, and then it was the next day I believe it was where they requested sniper units.

Q On the morning of July 13, did Butler County ESU host a briefing?

A Yes. Butler County had a briefing

Q Did you attend that briefing?

A I did not. Butler Township (city) did not.

Q Did Butler Township host a briefing?

A We did not. We were given an op plan, a packet of what we need to do. I mean, our job was traffic control. So, I mean, we had that packet. Traffic control is not a hard thing. You stop traffic when you need to stop and let it go when it needs to go. So yeah. We didn't specifically have one. (a briefing @ BTPD) X

Q All right. I will enter into the record majority exhibit 1, entitled "Butler Township Operation Plan."

MAJ EX. 1 BTPD OPER. PLAN

[[redacted] Exhibit No. 1 was marked for identification.]

BY [redacted]:

Q [redacted], can you take a look at this and confirm whether this is the operations plan you had received from Butler Township for your work that day?

A Yes. Yes, it was.

Q When did you receive the ops plan?

A I think the day before, so the 12th.

Recd day prior

Q Is that also when you received your assignment?

A I knew about my assignment I think the day before that. So --

Q And what did your work entail?

A I was stationed at Brady Paul Lane and Meridian Road, and I was to ensure that the motorcade made it into the venue safely.

Q Who were your -- did you have anyone else posted with you at that?

A I had a Secret Service agent posted with me.

Q What was that agent's name?

A I have no idea. He was from Arizona. That's all I know. He was younger, he said about 2 years on. Skinny and taller. He was prior Air Force.

[redacted]:

Q I understand that you reported to your post for Butler Township Police around 1400 hours. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Prior to that time, what were your roles and responsibilities?

A I was sleeping. I worked the night before, so I got off 8 o'clock that morning. And that's why I didn't attend the 09 brief for the ESU team. I left work at 08 and I went home, slept, came back out at 1400.

Q And when you arrived at your post, was the Secret Service agent present?

A Yes.

Q And who did you relieve of their duties at that station?

A Lieutenant [redacted].

Q Do you recall any initial conversations that you had with that Secret Service agent upon arriving at your post?

A Nothing that stands out. There was -- it was -- everything was going well

up until that point. So it was more so -- more or less small talk.

BY [redacted]:

Q Why was he posted there?

A I have no idea. Yeah, I have no idea.

Q Were you a part of any meetings with Secret Service prior to posting at 1400?

A No.

Q Are you aware of any meeting between Secret Service and local law enforcement that day?

A Like sit-down meeting or -- no. The only thing I'm aware of is [redacted] walked over to [redacted] and met with him face-to-face for -- briefly. I think that's when -- actually, I don't -- I don't know when, but I know [redacted] is the team leader for the sniper team, and he -- I don't know if that's when he received a copy of the op -- their op plan or -- I don't know, but I know briefly they met face-to-face.

Q Is [redacted] part of Butler ESU?

A Yes.

Q I would like to go back to the Butler Township operations plan. It lists frequencies on page 4. It lists the channel for ops 3 for members of the detail.

Were you listening to ops 3?

A I was listening to all three of those channels.

Q At what point would you decide whether to listen to ops 3, ops 4, or any other channel available?

A I was -- the entire time I was there I was listening to all three. Our radios have the -- we have a primary channel, but then we also have ability to scan the channels. So I had my radio scanning those three channels.

NO RADIO W/ S.S. NO COMS FROM S.S.

Q Is it possible to communicate with Secret Service on that radio?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Did you receive any means to communicate with Secret Service that day?

A No.

'BCES' TRAILER

Q Are you aware of the Butler County Emergency Services trailer that served as the local command post?

'local command post'

A Yes.

Q Do you know who was in it?

A I know Commander [redacted] was in it. Deputy Commander [redacted] was in it. I know -- I think the representative for Butler County dispatch was [redacted]; he was in it. Lieutenant [redacted] was in it off and on throughout the day. And that's -- I'm sure there was more, but that's all I'm aware of.

Q How would you describe the role that the trailer played in your work?

A They were the -- that was command post for -- yeah, that was command post.

'command post'

Q Were you aware that Secret Service had a separate command post?

S.S. had separate command post

A Yes.

Q When did you come to that knowledge?

A Prior to that day.

Q Did that separate command post have -- was there any reason for you to reach out for that -- to that Secret Service command post that you were given?

A For me?

PATROL

Q Yes.

NO COMS W/ S.S. COMMAND

A Like during the day, during the rally?

Q The entire -- at any point during the day.

A For me to reach out, no. But at the same time I had an agent with me, so he was able to reach out to them.

Q Did anyone speak with or explain for you about what communications would look like with the Secret Service?

A No.

Q All right. Why don't we walk through -- you walk us through your day from when you posted at 1400 to the time of shots fired.

A So 1400, obviously, I got there. At -- everything was going normal. Motor came in -- motorcade. Well, I was letting people know, because I got -- I got notification from the Secret Service agent and from Lieutenant [redacted] that President Trump was an hour behind. So I let -- I was involved in that sniper text group. So I let those guys know.

Then at 1738, I got a text message from one of the snipers of Crooks, saying, hey, this guy's acting suspicious. He was seen with a rangefinder.

Q Was that in the sniper text group?

A Yes. And then it was like within a minute or two after that, I believe [redacted] said, hey, forward that to command. So they put it out over the radio.

Q Who did?

A Somebody. Somebody. So, okay, so 1738, got that text message. Roughly 5 minutes-ish, Patrolman [redacted], who I work with, stopped at my location. I let him know about the picture. I showed him the picture. At the same -- within that 5 minutes, I also showed that to the Secret Service agent.

And how it was explained to me -- the question that was posed to me in a different interview was, hey, did he radio that up to anybody? And my initial response was, I don't know. And then he asked the question, well, did you ever see him talking

S.S. agent (presumably) radios to S.S. command

into his wrist, talking into his finger or anything like that? And that answer was yes. And that was after I showed the picture to him.

Request to PATROL to go help look

So showed him the picture, showed Patrolman [redacted] the picture. I said, hey, can you go help whatever guys over there look for -- because at that point in time I had not been over to the AGR. I was under the understanding -- I had no idea there was a crowd over there. I thought it was -- that whole area was blocked off.

(PATROL STAYS)

So I asked Patrolman [redacted] -- because in the brief prior to this I said, hey, if anything happens, do you want me to maintain this spot at Brady Paul? It was absolutely yes. So I asked Patrolman [redacted] to go over there, help look.

BUTLER SERGEANT NOTIFIED

Sergeant [redacted] came. I showed him the same picture. That's at the time there was a -- the cell phones were having issues. So I was trying to send the picture out to multiple people.

I called Sergeant [redacted], let him know, asked him to go help, because he was stationed at Meridian and Whitestown Road, which is just adjacent to the AGR building. So I was starting to send at least Butler Township guys that way so they were -- so they could help look.

BUTLER TOWNSHIP (CITY) 'starting to send .. so they could help look'

Then I started hearing updates over the radio of, hey, he was last seen here; hey, he was last seen there. So I was relaying that information because that was coming over ops 4. Butler Township guys weren't scanning ops 4, so I was relaying that information to Butler Township guys.

Relaying .. to (CITY)

And then a few minutes before shots were fired, I told the Secret -- I asked the Secret Service agent I was with, I said, hey, is it all right if I go help my guys look? So I drove over there. And as I'm getting out and starting to go that way, that's when the shots happened.

Q I want to briefly go back to comms. You mentioned the sniper text group.

Snipers in group texts over personal phones

Is that an SMS on your phone?

A Yes. 'personal'

Q Was it a personal phone or a work phone?

A Personal phone.

Q And who were the members of that text group?

A Oh, myself, [redacted], two Washington snipers.

Q Washington County?

A Washington County. And two Beaver County.

BY [redacted]:

Q Was there anyone from Secret Service in that sniper group?

A No.

Q Were you aware of any communication might have existed between the snipers that were there from local law enforcement and Secret Service counter snipers?

A After the fact, I spoke with [redacted], who said he -- he relayed the picture of Crooks and said, hey, this is what's going on over at the AGR building, to [redacted].

Q That initial text that you're referring to, is that the text that was sent around in the sniper text around 1738?

A No. Well, the picture was. But I don't know what [redacted] said to him. He said something -- told him about what was going on. That's -- that's all I know.

BY [redacted]

Q You mentioned connectivity issues. Do you have FirstNet?

A Yes. So I was -- the FirstNet people I was able to communicate with.

Those without it, that's where the issue came in.

Q And do you have Signal?

A Yes.

Q Do you use it for your work with Butler ESU?

A Yes.

Q Were you monitoring the Signal --

A Yes.

Q -- for Butler ESU communications?

A Yes.

Q And did you send or receive any messages?

A I -- I got the picture of Crooks. That was after I had already gotten that picture, though.

[redacted] Can you explain the distinction of where you might use text SMS versus Signal for a particular communication?

[redacted]. So the Signal group is our entire team, including the medical units. I think a couple of doctors that we have on the team are on there. So it encompasses everybody. So when we have to put something out for the entire team, that's what we use, because it's easier just -- it's easier to get the entire team on that.

But when you have -- so we have our sniper group. You have your team leaders that talk to each other. So when it's that smaller group, that's when we typically just text each other.

[redacted] Thank you.

[redacted]. The photos sent to you of who you later appreciated to be Crooks, was that interpreted as a report of a suspicious person?

[redacted]. Yes. Yeah.

[redacted]. Had you learned about any other suspicious persons up until that point?

[redacted] No.

BY [redacted]:

Q Can you explain more about your role as an assistant team leader for Butler ESU with the sniper team? I know that you were on the sniper team text thread, but I know that your post through Butler Township was, you know, maintaining a post at Meridian and Brady Paul Lane.

What was your involvement with the sniper team for Butler ESU on July 13th?

A So on July 13th, it was very minimal. It was more or less me monitoring the radio and relaying what information that I could for Butler Township guys. My involvement was the preplanning of it for the ESU portion of it.

Q Did the Secret Service agent that was stationed by you know that you served this type of dual-hat role with Butler Township Police and Butler ESU? Was that mentioned to him?

A I believe so, yeah.

Q Do you know if he understood that before you told him?

A Before I told him? No, he would have had no idea.

BY [redacted]:

AGR BLDG

Q Earlier you had mentioned -- I'm going to take you back to July 11th again. You had mentioned expressing concerns about the AGR building to [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted]. Am I tracking that?

A Uh-huh.

Q And I had heard you say that you wouldn't be able to see anything?

A So when I say "see anything," I'm talking of the whole area towards the

water tower side.

Q Would you describe that as the space between the east side of the AGR building and the water tower?

A That would have been -- so north -- yeah, that would have been on the east side. Yeah, that would have been on the east side.

Q And where would you have been positioned such that you could not have visibility on that?

A Where the snipers would have been positioned or where I was positioned at Brady Paul?

[redacted]. One moment. We're at time, but I believe we're on the verge of introducing an exhibit here. And I think that, if it's all right with my colleagues, we can continue this line of questioning and get this exhibit on the record, if that works for everybody.

[redacted]. Sure.

[redacted]. All right. Thanks.

All right. So let's go ahead and introduce this exhibit.

[redacted]. I'd like to introduce majority exhibit 2 of the Butler Farm Show ground and surrounding area for point of reference for [redacted] as he describes his experience at the walk-through.

[[redacted] Exhibit No. 2
was marked for identification.]

BY [redacted]:

Q My question is, when you had said we can't see this space between the east of the AGR building and the water tower, what did you have in mind on where you would be such that you could not see this space?

A So where we had -- at this point in time had planned on it to the July 11th is -- this is what I explained. And so we're standing up by the command post for the Secret Service, and I'm pointing out to both [redacted] the counter sniper team leader, and to [redacted] and [redacted] that, hey, we're -- there's a line of windows that you could see on that second floor. Not the -- not the building that later was found to be Crooks was on but the building behind. There's a line of windows that we were planning to be in, and that way we could see the venue of -- the whole venue.

Above Crooks

[redacted]. Understood. Thank you.

[redacted]. We can go off the record.

[Discussion off the record.]

EXAMINATION

BY [redacted]:

Q I'm going to cover some of the ground, but to the extent my colleagues already asked you questions --

A No problem.

Q -- I'll skip over those.

Have you previously worked on any rallies in the area?

A I worked the 2020 rally.

Q What was your role then?

A My role then was -- I think we were a QRF team. I think the entire ESU team was a QRF team.

Q And when you say the 2020 rally, was that for when Trump was President?

A Yes.

Q Were you involved in planning for that one?

A No.

Q Were there any other rallies that you participated in?

A No.

Q So have you previously coordinated with Pennsylvania State Police or Federal agencies?

A For rallies or just in general --

Q Both.

A -- dealing? I've done different things with the State Police, but that would be -- I would say years ago I was also in the military. I did things with Federal level.

Q Which branch were you in?

A Army.

Q Oh, thank you for your service.

So you're a part of Butler Emergency Services Unit, and there is also Butler Emergency Services. BUTLER EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY & UNIT

ESU & ESA

Have you had experience of people not from the area getting those two confused?

A So I would -- I would say, so Butler Emergency Services Unit and then Butler Emergency -- it's ESU and then EMA, Butler Emergency Management --

[redacted]. Agency, perhaps?

[redacted]. Yeah, Agency.

So -- but I've never -- to answer your question to me specifically, I've never had anybody question, hey, what's the difference or anything like that, until meeting all of you guys.

BY [redacted]:

Q As we're all confused about it.

A Yes. And that kind of actually opened my eyes, like, okay, it is a little confusing. So --

Q Yeah. You mentioned talking to Secret Service when planning for the rally. Did you speak to any other law enforcement entities?

A During the 11th, I probably spoke to some of the State Police guys that were at that walk-around, but what I said and -- I couldn't tell you.

Q And I guess, besides pleasantries, were there any like substantive discussions with State Police?

A I'm sure there was, but nothing that would -- nothing that stood out or stands out to me now or even prior.

Q Were you at -- when you were at the July 11th walk-through, did you ever interact with Lieutenant [redacted]?

A Yes.

Q And did the two of you talk about the walk-through either during the walk-through or afterwards?

A At some point in time, I talked to him. I don't know if it was -- because I actually went to him -- this would have been after we visited the AGR building -- requesting that he -- we put up barricades for the parking lot. So he -- he managed to -- we accommodated that.

Q What do you mean put up barricades in the parking lot?

A So like we shut down -- like, the night before I posted no parking signs all along Meridian Road, put up a few barricades. And I requested [redacted] we get -- that we get barricades for the parking lot. And his response was, hey, that's a private company. That's not our responsibility.

And I explained to him, I said, it has nothing to do -- I don't care about the business. It's like, I don't want people coming in. I don't want people pulling in. He's like, oh, sure, no problem, we'll put up barricades.

Q Okay. So the -- because of your efforts, the parking lot was obstructed, people couldn't park in there?

A Yes.

Q Did Lieutenant [redacted] ever mention to you that Pennsylvania State Police Lieutenant [redacted] requested a patrol vehicle for AGR --

A No.

Q -- and that he said no?

So he didn't bring this up to you?

Request to put BTPD in AGR complex - Denied

A So you're saying that -- can you re-say that question again?

Q Did Lieutenant [redacted] ever tell you that at the July 11th walk-through, Pennsylvania State Police [redacted] requested that BTPD put a person in the AGR complex and that he said no?

A So -- so he did tell me that, but he never -- from my memory, he didn't -- he never mentioned Lieutenant [redacted]. When he -- he mentioned that to me, I believe he said it was one of the agents that requested that. Whether it was [redacted] or [redacted] or [redacted], I don't know which one, but it was one of the agents that requested that. And he explained to them that we don't have the manpower to post anybody over there.

Q And I have other questions about July 11th. I just didn't want to forget that before.

But let's go back a bit. Sort of using the analogy of a house where the campaign is the home buyer, Secret Service is the general contractor, and then you have sort of subcontractors for tactical and patrol. What was your understanding of who was the subcontractor for tactical and who was for patrol?

TACTICAL & PATROL SUB CONTRACTORS

A So Lieutenant [redacted] would have been the subcontractor for patrol, because that's our general area. And for the tactical side, the ESU would have been the

subcontractor for that.

Q And where would Pennsylvania State Police and the sheriff's department fit in?

A They would also be subcontractor. Where exactly, that's -- that's command's decision, between -- that's where you get the different agencies talking of whose job's going to be what.

Q Did you attend the July 8th meeting?

A Yes.

Q And that was with Secret Service, Pennsylvania State Police?

A No.

Q Was there anyone else?

A Oh, July 8th. I'm sorry. No, I did not attend that.

Q Okay. So you didn't attend the one on Monday, July 8th?

A No.

Q The July 9th walk-through at 8:15 p.m., correct?

A Correct.

Q At that point, did ESU know that the perimeter of the secured area would not include AGR?

A I believe so, yes.

Q And just for the record for clarity between us, when I say ESU, I'm saying Butler County ESU. If I want to specify Beaver or Washington, I'll preface it with one of those counties.

A Okay.

Q And did you all make any decisions about posts or your mission on July 9th?

A So on that July 9th, when we go -- went to go visit the AGR building, at that

point in time -- so we had a -- we had training that night, our regular team training that night.

During that evening -- so -- let me rewind a little bit. Commander [redacted], that was that -- earlier in the day, that's the day that Commander [redacted] sent a text message out, said, hey, we were just requested for sniper units. Who's all available?

So then move into that night at training. We had a little preop plan, I guess you could say, say, hey, these are -- from the guys that went to that July 8th meeting, that Monday meeting. Hey, these are what our -- what we're being requested to do. We're requesting CAT teams. We're requesting our CAT teams, counter assault teams. We're requesting QRF teams.

Plan to Secure

And it was our understanding at that point in time, like our focus is the inside of the venue. Like, we are to control the things that go on with inside of the venue, like for attack on the -- on President Trump, attack on -- like, any threats with inside the venue. Obviously, we can launch the QRF team to outside the venue, but that's primarily going to be patrol or somebody else.

So then move to the AGR building. We're understanding, hey, we're to over-watch the venue itself for any threats, anybody coming in, things of that sort. So we formulated our plan to best suit the mission that we understood.

2nd Trip

Q I appreciate that.

On July 10th, the next day, you guys went back out around 4 p.m., correct?

A Yes.

Q And was the idea that you wanted to see it in a similar light for what the event would have?

A Yes. So -- so not only that, but we are also -- so we couldn't -- it was -- by the time 8 o'clock, it's dark. It was getting dark. So yes, we wanted to see it in similar

light; but at the same time we had another team to place, another sniper team to place. So that way we actually had full eyes on the whole venue.

Barn: S.S. counter-snipers

Yeah, we knew the barns where the Secret Service counter snipers ended up being. We knew we had those, but we wanted to see what else was -- was available, because on the north side of everything, the AGR building, that was the only thing available at that -- like, there's no other buildings. There's no other places to go. Even -- so we even talked about the water tower.

So move into the next day. We look from the -- from inside the venue, you can't see -- you can only see the very top of the water tower. So, okay, that's -- that's kind of out of the question because we can't even see anything from the water tower.

And it covered -- because the water tower was blocked because of the foliage on the trees. Couldn't -- we stood where the stage was. I even moved back where the crowd would have been standing, still couldn't see most of the water tower.

S.S. Counter-sniper did not attend

So we also chose 4 o'clock, because we thought one of the -- the -- [redacted], the counter sniper, was going to attend that as well. So --

Q Did he not attend?

A He did not.

Q Did he explain why?

A [redacted] called him while we were there, and he said he already walked around at 10 o'clock that morning.

Q Do you know whether [redacted] and [redacted] debriefed later on?

A I have no idea.

Q So after the July 10th ESU walk-through, [redacted] creates a map with overlays of what I'll call field of vision for the snipers?

A You said after July 10th?

Q Yes.

A Yeah, I believe that night.

Q Did you participate in determining what each sniper's responsibility would be?

A To put it on paper, no. But we -- that's -- those are the things that we generally talked about when we were walking around both the AGR building and the Farm Show grounds.

Q And I'll have a follow-up question about that, but I'm going to wait till I have a map in front of you.

And that email -- so later on there's an email with the map sent to yourself, [redacted], but not [redacted]. Do you know why [redacted] wasn't copied?

A No.

Q Let's talk July 11th. So you mentioned -- and we'll get into the content, but as far as who you spoke to, you spoke to Special Agents [redacted], or -- and [redacted].

Did you speak to any other special agents?

A If I did, it wouldn't have been -- nothing that stuck -- sticks out.

Q I mean substantively, not just pleasantries.

A I don't think so.

Q And you mentioned that you spoke to Pennsylvania State Police, but you can't recall what those conversations were.

A Correct.

Q Anyone else from the sheriff's department or BTPD?

A I mean, obviously, I spoke to Lieutenant [redacted] that day, but when he -- he

went off with [redacted], Lieutenant [redacted], and [redacted]; and we went off with [redacted] the opposite direction.

Q And just for the record, [redacted] was there as well, but he was there as like ESU --

A Correct.

Q -- and not BTPD?

A Correct.

Q Were there any other law enforcement entities present?

A I don't think so.

Q At that point, did ESU determine where its stage and locations would be?

A We had a game plan prior to that, but that was the day that we actually provided that information to the Secret Service.

Q Were you informed, either at that meeting or afterwards, that Secret Service clarified that ESU did not need to be covert?

A Say that one more time.

Q Did anyone from ESU ever update you that Secret Service reported that ESU did not need to be covert?

A So yes. And that was -- that was during the walk-around. But that -- from my understanding, that was more so related to the QRF team that was staged at the main gate where the magnetometers would have been.

OVERT vs. COVERT snipers

Q So it was your understanding that the snipers from ESU still needed to be covert?

A Yes. Especially being outside the perimeter, yeah.

Q Did that impact the decision as to where to place people?

A Yes.

Q And if you -- if the snipers are allowed to be covert, do you get closer to the window? Do you go on the roof? Like, what options does that open for you?

A If they're required to be covert?

Q If they're allowed to be overt.

A Oh, if they're allowed to be overt?

Q Yes.

A If they -- if they want to be -- if we're allowed to be overt, I mean, it -- it doesn't necessarily change things a whole lot. It's -- because your field of view would generally be the same.

The only really difference it would make is what specific position you're going to take out. But the -- but looking at the field of views would generally have been the same.

Q So -- and I'm going to sort of turn this into a two-part question. If I'm inside and I'm looking out a window, my experience is that if I'm 12 inches back from a window versus right up on a window, my field of view does change.

A Correct.

Q So, I mean, if you're allowed to be overt, do the snipers get closer to --

A So -- so how this works, you're not -- you're -- obviously, yeah, you're -- generally, I would be about this far [indicating]. My rifle would be -- by the time my rifle comes back, I'd be about this far away from the window [indicating].

Obviously, those windows were a lot smaller than these windows. But you're not sitting behind the rifle the entire time. Like, you would have eye fatigue. You would have just general -- like, your body would cramp up if you're sitting behind the rifle for 12 hours.

So you have a pair of binoculars. You're up to the window. You're on the side

of the window. You're looking through the binoculars. You're back on the rifle. You're up off the rifle. So you're moving around within this area to view the whole -- the whole thing.

Q And so the second part to that question: So for the record, we're inside of the building. There's a parking lot on the outside. It seems like I can see a lot more of the parking lot if I was on the roof instead of inside.

So, I mean, would you not be able to see more if you were on the roof of AGR?

A It depends. So that roof in particular, it's a 40-foot roof. I don't -- I'm not exactly sure how big, but let's say about 40 foot wide, right. So if we would take a position up on the roof, we'd be laying in the middle of the roof or in the peak. You would not be able to see anything below you. Your -- so your field of view all around you would be stretched that much farther out.

I would -- if -- I would say you would not be able to see -- serving off memory, if you were laying in the middle of the roof, I would say you'd probably catch that first row of the crowd. That would be your first view of what you're looking at.

Q That's helpful. So if you're on the roof -- and tell me if I'm wrong -- does that mean that you're not necessarily -- if I'm thinking about the second floor window, you're not necessarily right above the second floor window, you have to go to the peak of the roof?

A Yeah, you have to, because you can't -- you're not laying on the front of the roof, because now you got the entire crowd and you got whoever else looking straight at you.

So you're on that peak of the roof, because not only is that your most stable position, but that is -- that's -- well, I mean, that's pretty much it. That's your most stable position. You put your rifle up on that peak. The buttstock goes on the peak of

the roof. Your bag goes on the peak or right below the peak. And that's your most stable position.

Q Okay. Thank you.

Were there any other meetings to prepare either with Secret Service or internally?

A Like prior to the already days that --

Q Yes.

A No, no. At least not that I'm aware of.

Q And so refocusing on the AGR building, we've talked about July 11th and conversations about the AGR building on July 11th. Were there any other conversations?

A About what?

Q About the AGR building, with any other law enforcement entity.

A More -- I would say not any more of, hey, there's going to be snipers inside the building.

Q Did you have an understanding of why the AGR building was left outside of the secure perimeter?

A I -- I have no clue why.

Q Did anyone communicate concerns about that decision?

A Beforehand?

Q Yes.

S.S. did NOT contact owner of AGR BLDG

A No, because -- so when I -- so I got hold of the owner of the AGR building for us to go look at it and everything. And even during when we went to go look around, he's like, we were waiting for a phone call from somebody. You guys are the first one to call us. So at that point in time, I know the Secret Service didn't call him.

Q And when you spoke to Secret Service about your security concerns for AGR,

was that one conversation, like, in other words, [redacted], in one conversation or were there multiple?

A Two. One was with [redacted] and one was with [redacted].

[redacted] So I am going to introduce what we will call minority exhibit A.

[[redacted] Exhibit A was marked for identification.]

[redacted] So I'm going to have him -- for the record, I'm going to have him mark up the exhibit and then we'll trade the exhibit that we turn in.

[2:00 p.m.]

BY [redacted]:

Q Can you demonstrate -- and hopefully my pen is strong enough. But can you show where you expressed concerns with the AGR complex?

A So it would've been essentially -- essentially this whole eastern side.

I don't know if you can see that or not.

Q Yes. So, with the AGR building towards the top center of exhibit A --

A It'd even be probably more along the lines of -- because we could see, like, right there. So -- -ish.

It'd be -- yeah. That's probably -- that's more accurate. That's more accurate.

Q All right.

So, with AGR being north, the witness [redacted] has indicated towards the right or east, including the area south of Whitestown and west of Meridian Road was an area of concern, and it also overlaps with portions of the building that was outside of the established field of view for the snipers.

Did I summarize that fairly?

A Yeah.

Q I'll leave that here for now.

A You could even add -- you could even add, like -- so, I mean, this was a primary concern, but you can even add as a secondary concern back here. Because there was only one window that faced, like, this way. So, as soon as you hit, like, this building, you couldn't really see over here. You could see, like -- this area right here you could see. But back here you couldn't see, because this building was in the way.

From the windows in there, you could see most of this.

And to better serve your purposes, if we were laying on this -- so this would've

been the building that Crooks was on. If we were laying, we would've been right about where the line goes through, on the peak of that roof. And you're not going to see probably out until -- probably right around the parking -- halfway through the parking lot you'll actually finally be able to see the ground.

Same thing with out here. You probably won't be able to see the ground until maybe -- maybe out here. I would say, if you're looking straight out, probably over the fence line.

Q So, in addition to the area that we previously summarized, the witness [redacted] has indicated that from their established position north of the AGR building up until Whitestown Road was a secondary area of concern.

Is that right?

A Yes.

Q And those are the areas that you indicated to the Secret Service agents that you spoke with?

A Yes.

Q And how did you point those out to them?

A So we were standing up by where the Secret Service Command Post would've been, the office for the Farm Show grounds. And so you're able to see this area, the AGR building, very clearly from that position. So I was at -- I was physically pointing to the areas of concern.

Q And what did -- first of all, who responded to you? And for each person, what did they say? So take that in portions.

A So [redacted] responded with, Hey, we'll -- what we normally do with the areas of concern is we post an unarmed agent with a local patrol unit in those areas.

And then at the same time -- I think this was later during our walk-around, he said,

Well, a lot of time -- he goes, What I'm being told is we're going to be putting a fence around the area, an opaque fence that would block the view from people looking through the fence on the ground level. I didn't know -- he didn't know how high that was going to go, but it wasn't -- the way he said it, it wasn't like, Hey, I'm putting this area -- it was, Hey, I'm being told this is what we're doing.

And then the second conversation with [redacted] and [redacted] was -- they kind of -- so they -- I explained to them where we're going to be, were placed, that we are going to -- Hey, we're going to be looking into the venue to watch out for anything. And, obviously, we'll have -- because we're inside, we'll have somewhat eyes on. I was like, But all these areas are dead spaces to us. We can't see these areas.

At the same time, Hey, people are going to start -- eventually going to start coming on that fence line because it's not a far -- I ranged it the previous day. From, like, the corner of that building to the red buildings, the barns, it was like 140 yards. I was like, it's not a far -- I think I used the word "shot." I was like, So this area needs blocked off so people can't access it.

And they were, Hey, we understand, we'll take care of it.

Q And was that the extent to what they said, those two agents?

A Yes.

Q Did anyone tell you about considerations to place vehicles as obstruction to the line of sight?

A I learned about that after the fact, that there was, at one point in time, a plan to put fire trucks along the one side. Why that didn't happen or what the reason was or anything like that, I have no idea.

Q About what time did the July 11th walk-through start?

A It was either 09 or 10 o'clock.

Q Do you have a recollection of about how long it lasted?

A Three -- 3, 4 hours, somewhere in there.

Q And do you have a sense of around what time you would have had those conversations?

A It would've been shortly after it started.

Q So right in the beginning?

A Yeah.

Q And I'll just sort of approximate -- not to commit you to, like, 5 minutes -- maybe within the 30 minutes of being there?

A Yeah. I -- yeah.

Q So did you make any suggestions or did they have any insight as to who would possibly patrol the AGR complex?

A No. All they said is that they'd take care of it. Like, when I asked for bodies there, they said they would take care of it. And they didn't indicate who or what. They just said they would take care of it.

Q And based off of your recollection that you told Agents [redacted] and [redacted] that there were dead spots for the snipers -- I think I know the answer to this, but I'll ask anyway -- is there any way that [redacted] could have interpreted that ESU had the AGR complex covered?

A In my mind, no, because in the history -- I would say, in the history of SWAT teams, you don't use them for perimeter control.

And they knew our job, as the SWAT team, to be -- the rest of the team was going to be staged within the perimeter, behind the stage. The only three people that were outside of the perimeter were the three snipers in the AGR building within the second floor. So it would've been physically impossible for them to cover that entire area.

Q To your recollection, did anyone from ESU or Secret Service ever go up to the water tower?

A No, we did not.

BUTLER TOWN OPS PLAN

Q So we're going to look at the Butler Township ops plan later, but in some portion of it, it says that Team 400 -- which is ESU?

A Correct.

Q -- that Team 400 is responsible for all active threats, civil disturbances, and motorcade vehicles while at the Farm Show grounds.

What did you understand that to mean?

A The Butler Township op plan, you said?

Q Yes. It's under "Command and Control." I'll introduce it later. I've ran out of time.

A That's fine.

[redacted]. He means the ESU op plan, I think.

[redacted] The ESU op plan?

[redacted] No, no, the Butler Township --

[redacted] Oh, I apologize. Okay. I'm sorry.

[redacted] "Command and Control."

So this is -- this is done with -- this is, obviously, Butler Township's and not the ESU's or Team 400's.

Generally, for civil disturbances, unless it gets -- like, where our job was counter-assault teams and QRF teams -- because -- why that's necessarily in there, I can't answer that.

If it got to the point where there was a mass threat, mass chaos, yeah, we could be deployed for that. But in a general sense, we wouldn't be deployed for a civil

disturbance. That would be a patrol function. Whether it's PSP patrol or whether it was Butler Township patrol, that would be a patrol function, generally speaking.

Q I have, like, two or three more to wrap this up.

Who was ultimately -- whose call was it within ESU to not put any snipers on the roof?

A That would be -- that would be a group effort between myself, [redacted], and [redacted].

Q And when the decision was made, did you guys inform Secret Service that there would not be anyone on the roof?

A Yeah. We explained that to them on that Thursday walk-around, the July 11th walk-around. I explained that, Hey, we're going to be inside the building. And he was, Okay. And I explained to him that we're going to be watching the venue.

Q And we talked about some of the practical reasons for being inside, including, like, setting up on the peak and that limits invisibility.

Was there also concern about the heat that day and having people out for 8 hours?

A The heat was obviously a factor. I don't know if you've ever shot long-range, but if you're standing out or laying in the sun, especially on a metal roof, for 8 hours -- and with that heat that day, it probably would've been about 120-ish -- and then you're expected to shoot a 400-yard shot with pinpoint accuracy -- I'm not saying it's not possible, but it's just a lot harder.

So that was a factor. It wasn't like, Hey, this is the only reason. It was a factor.

You're outside the perimeter. It's good to have -- especially if you're outside a perimeter -- like, counter-sniper team was inside the perimeter. They have the SWAT team right below them. They have nothing to worry about around them. We were

not.

We have the whole -- the Whitestown Road section behind the AGR, that was not shut down. So you have another business right behind that. So you have another threat behind that. And then even behind that was another group of buildings, so you have another threat behind that.

So, if you take all these into consideration, is why we didn't choose to put them on the roof.

Q Okay.

A But we chose the second-highest -- like, there's no one else getting above us. So we chose the second-highest that also accomplished our mission of overwatching the venue.

Q And my last question: Were you ever made aware prior to the rally that the Beaver County ESU snipers assumed that they would be on the roof?

A No.

Q Okay.

[redacted]. Well, that is all for me. I think we can go off the record now.

[Recess.]

[redacted]. All right. We'll go back on the record.

BY [redacted]:

Q [redacted], I'd like to go back to when you assumed your post at 1400 at the Brady Paul Lane entrance.

A Uh-huh.

Q When you arrived, was the Secret Service agent there that you were to be stationed with there?

A Yes.

Q Okay.

I'd like to introduce majority exhibit 3.

[[redacted] Majority Exhibit No. 3 was marked for identification.]

BY [redacted]:

Q And I'd like to go to -- just take your time reviewing that document.

A I'm good.

Q Okay.

We can go ahead and flip to page 13. This is an incident report associated with the July 13th event, prepared by Butler Township Police Department.

On page 13, your name is listed as "supplemental narrative." And I'd like to talk through some of the times that are established in your supplemental narrative there, okay?

A Uh-huh.

Q You mentioned earlier that, at 1738 hours, you received a picture text of Thomas Crooks from ESU members advising that Crooks was acting strange around the AGR building.

Were you in the presence of the Secret Service when you received that text?

A Yes.

Q Did you show that text to Secret Service?

A Yes.

Q And you mentioned earlier that you recall the Secret Service agent speaking into their watch or phone or device of some sort?

A Sleeve, yeah, something of that sort, yeah.

He also relayed to me -- when I started pushing guys down that ways, he goes,

Hey, if you guys find him, we'll talk to him.

Q Okay.

So, at 1745 hours, you called Patrolman [redacted].

Was the Secret Service patrolman in the vicinity, in your area, when you made that phone call?

A Yes.

Q Did he overhear that phone call?

A I have no idea. Probably. Maybe.

Q At 1751 hours, when Officer [redacted] stopped at your location -- and how did he arrive at your location? Did he arrive in a vehicle?

A Yes.

Q And was the Secret Service agent present for that meeting --

A Yes.

Q -- with Officer [redacted]? Did he participate in the conversation with you, [redacted] --

A I think he did. I believe so.

Q Do you recall what he said?

A No.

Q At 1758 hours, according to the supplemental narrative on page 13 of the incident report from Butler Township Police Department, you called Sergeant [redacted].

Was the Secret Service agent present for that phone call in your area, by your post?

A Yes.

Q Did he observe you on the phone with [redacted]?

A Yes.

Q At 1803 hours, the incident report reads that you relayed information from ESU members that Crooks was last seen between the AGR building headed towards Sheetz.

Were you in the vicinity of Secret Service when you relayed that information?

A Yes.

Q At 1806 hours, you left your post to assist in looking for Crooks.

A Yes.

Q Was Secret Service still there at your post when you left your post around 1806?

A Yes.

Q Can you describe your last conversation or interaction with Secret Service at 1806 before you left your post?

A I asked them, I said, Hey, are you okay here if I go help my guys look for this guy?

Q Uh-huh.

A And he said, Yep, as long as you come back.

Q Okay.

So, in the time that you'd received the text message of Thomas Crooks from ESU members at about 1738 to 1806 hours when you left your post, you're aware that the Secret Service agent that was at your post had observed at least a phone call between you and [redacted] a meeting between you and [redacted] in his car, a call with Sergeant [redacted], a meeting with Sergeant [redacted] at your location, and the Secret Service was also aware that you had relayed information from ESU members that Crooks was last seen between the AGR building headed towards Sheetz, correct?

A Yes.

Q And Secret Service, at that time, through those phone calls and those meetings, with police cars arriving at your post -- your major takeaway from the totality of those interactions was, "If you find him, we'll talk to him," from Secret Service? That was their reaction?

A That is what he said to me, yes.

Q Can you describe the remaining time between when you left your post to when you heard shots fired, what location you were traveling?

A So I had a car as well, and by the time I pulled out and had the emergency lights on -- because there was a little bit of traffic. Most of it had dissipated, but there was still a little bit -- get down, I parked. I heard over the radio, I believe it was Patrolman [redacted] saying something about someone on roof, on the roof.

And I don't -- I maybe -- I don't know why, because someone being on the roof just in general is not enough to obviously warrant a deadly-force response, but I grabbed my rifle out of the car at the same time, and I began -- I mean, no more than I grabbed my rifle and parked -- because I parked underneath the water tower. No more had I grabbed my rifle and started going, the shots happened.

Q Uh-huh.

When you arrived at the water tower, did you observe any other vehicles that were stationed at the water tower?

A No.

Q Did you observe any other activity moving towards the AGR building in the same direction that you were going?

A I could see people starting to move up through, like, the brush, through the fence area. I could see people starting to move through the parking lot. Yeah.

Q Uh-huh.

And then what did you do when you heard shots were fired?

A Oh, I took off running, straight for the building.

I stopped briefly at the -- there's, like, CONEX boxes, a garage-type something, right on the corner of the parking lot. Stopped briefly just to kind of assess what was going on.

And then I continued running towards the -- I think someone yelled -- I think someone yelled, "Hey, he's on the roof" or -- so then I, again, took off running to the building itself.

QRF = QUICK REACTION FORCE

Q What happened next?

A Tried finding a way up on the roof. Within, I don't know, a minute, 30 seconds, whatever it was, I saw the ESU Quick Reaction Force coming in. So then I assisted them in getting up to the roof.

Q Okay.

BY [redacted]:

Q At that point after -- later on that day, had you heard reports of a second shooter?

A I heard somebody -- so when we -- I cleared the AGR building with other State Police personnel, ESU members. I think there was a couple of Washington County SWAT guys there. I don't think -- I don't remember any Beaver guys being in there until after the fact. But I went upstairs to check on the sniper team that was up there.

And [redacted], a Beaver County ESU sniper, was facing out the window towards the water tower, because he heard over the radio of someone possibly being up there.

I told him to maintain, but at the same time I said, that's physically impossible, because the gate was locked to the water tower, and it was -- I think it was 40-foot from the ground to where the ladder was. And for someone to access that with full gear, I

want to meet that person, because that's -- that's an incredible person.

Q Why did you, the others, perhaps, if you can speak to them, begin to clear the AGR building?

A More or less told to by Commander [redacted]. I might've known the reason at the time, but I couldn't tell you now.

Q Uh-huh.

A But whether -- I think -- you know what? I think someone -- someone on the radio said, I think he's -- the kid might be associated with AGR. I think that's where the clearing of the AGR building came into play.

Q About when did that clearing conclude for you?

A I have no idea. I don't know.

Q What did you do afterwards?

A So we cleared the AGR building, and that's when I was asked to clear the water tower. So we broke the lock and the chain on the gate for the water tower. And the only thing we were able to access was a little pump station below the water tower, because, like I said, the ladder was still padlocked and I believe it's 40-foot up in the air.

Q You said you broke through the lock --

A Uh-huh.

Q -- of the gate to the water tower?

A Yeah.

Q And you observed a padlock on the ladder to the water tower?

A Yes.

Q And after that point, what happened?

A We were told to stay in that position until they could get a drone up to the top of the water tower.

Q From whom did you receive that direction?

A Commander [redacted].

Q When did your day end?

A I had to work that night, so 8 o'clock a.m. the next day.

Q Do you recall at what point you had switched -- had you been on ops 4 when you received the direction from [redacted], or had you received that direction some other way?

A I think they merged -- at some point in time, they merged ops 3 and ops 4. So, yeah, it didn't matter what channel you were on, everyone was able to communicate the same thing.

Q Have you had any interviews with the Secret Service since the conclusion of your work at the event?

A I just -- was that last Friday? When was it? Last Friday?

[redacted] No.

[redacted] Two Fridays ago. Mondays.

I don't know. I talked to --

[redacted]. We can get you a date. Yeah. We can figure it out and let you know.

[redacted]. But it's happened?

[redacted]. Yes.

[redacted] Yes. Yes.

BY [redacted]:

Q Have you interviewed with the FBI?

A Yes.

Q Have you interviewed with Pennsylvania State Police?

A There was a conjunction meeting, the FBI and State Police.

Q Have you interviewed with any other Federal agency besides the FBI and this congressional task force today?

A Senator Grassley's office and the Homeland Security meeting, right?

[redacted]. The investigative committee under Homeland Security, they did an interview. It was kind of a group interview.

BY [redacted]:

Q Now I have a last quick lightning round of Pennsylvania State Police-related questions before I turn it over to my colleague for some followup he has.

Were at any point you assigned to work with the Pennsylvania State Police on the day of the event?

A No.

Q Were you ever given a point of contact to communicate with the Pennsylvania State Police for any reason?

A No.

BY [redacted]:

Q I want to go back to discussing majority exhibit 3, page 13. Just a little bit more about the timeline of, you know, interactions with other officers and communications about the suspicious individual.

Referring back to the timeline on page 13, under your supplemental narrative there, do you recall Secret Service at 1751 hours making any type of communication, like, either on their phone, watch, or making communications with the Secret Service after Patrolman [redacted] stopped at your location?

A When he made whatever communications he made, I couldn't tell you exactly when that happened.

Q Uh-huh.

A It was obviously within that timeframe of between 1738 and, let's say -- I'd say 1758. He definitely made -- obviously made some kind of communications. When exactly, I don't know --

Q Uh-huh.

A -- but something. I even showed him the picture of him. So --

Q And that was initially around 1738 when you first received the message? Around --

A Yeah.

Q -- that time?

A Yeah.

Q Okay.

And, then, when Officer [redacted] stopped by, can you describe the location of the Secret Service agent to you and Officer [redacted]? Was he there next to the car? Were you --

A Five feet.

Q -- next to the car? Five feet?

A Yeah.

Q Was he a part of that conversation, or was he just 5 feet away?

A I think he -- because [redacted] got out of the car. So I'm pretty sure he was actually part of that conversation.

Q Okay.

And when Sergeant [redacted] stopped by at or around 1758 hours, did Sergeant [redacted] get out of his vehicle, similar to [redacted], to speak with you?

A No. He stayed in his car.

Q Can you describe the location of the Secret Service agent that was at your post at around 1758 hours? Was he near Sergeant [redacted] car?

A Yeah, but, again, probably within 5 feet.

Q Okay.

I know that you discussed earlier -- you were asked if the Secret Service agent was communicating on radio, watch, or finger. Can you describe those three? What did you mean by that, when you had said those three things?

A So, one of my other interviews, that question was asked; like, Hey, did you ever see him communicate over radio or have a radio or anything like that? Obviously I knew he had a radio, but I never -- the way the question was asked, I never specifically saw him talking into the radio.

So then they asked me a followup question: Well, did you ever see hum talking into his watch, his finger, his wrist, the sleeve, something like that?

Q Uh-huh.

A Obviously, yes, I did. So --

Q Okay. And did you overhear any of that information that he was discussing?

A No.

Q Okay.

After shots were fired, I know that there's public reports of body-cam footage at and around the AGR building with various local law enforcement entities. And I understand that you were nearby the AGR building at a point after shots were fired, correct?

A Yes.

Q I'm going to introduce an article for the record. This will be majority

exhibit 4.

[REDACTED] Majority Exhibit No. 4 was marked for identification.]

ARTICLE ABOUT BODY CAM FOOTAGE

Mr. [REDACTED]. Oh, yeah. She -- yeah. That's my -- okay.

She emailed -- I'll even get -- she emailed my work email half a dozen times. I never responded. Called me half a dozen times, never responded.

BY [REDACTED]

Q This article majorly is about the body-cam footage, and --

A Yeah.

Q -- it discusses that you were outside the AGR building and you expressed frustration after shots were fired, correct?

A Yes.

Q And I believe the specific line is that you told them about -- you told them on Tuesday.

A Yeah. So -- and, obviously, I can address the Tuesday remark.

My only explanation to that is, through the heat of the moment, because there was obviously a lot going on at that point in time, I blurted out "Tuesday." It wasn't Tuesday. That would've been Thursday.

Q On Thursday. And that would've been the July 11th walk-through?

A Correct.

Q And by "them," who are you referring to?

A Secret Service.

Q And were you referring to the Secret Service agents you spoke with on July 11th?

A Yes.

S.S. Agents identified that need warnings about AGR BLDG on 7/11

Q And who were those agents specifically?

A [redacted].

Q And by "telling them," what did you mean? Did you mean the concerns that you raised at the July 11th walk-through?

A Yes.

Q And what were those concerns?

A That, for my ESU snipers, there was areas of -- like, it's in close proximity -- it's the same -- there's dead spots that the ESU snipers can't see. There's going to be areas, like -- eventually, like I said, there's going to be people walking up to it. So I requested people be posted around so no one can access that area.

Q Thank you.

How long did you maintain the perimeter around the AGR building?

A After the fact?

Q Yes.

A I have no idea. I have no idea.

Q Do you recall being around at the AGR building at the time that FBI arrived?

A Yes.

Q Did you have any interaction with the FBI when the FBI arrived?

A Yes.

Q Can you describe --

A Oh, FBI or Secret Service?

Q FBI.

A I was there when FBI arrived. I can't tell you when. You're -- I was thinking of Secret Service.

Q Understood. We'll go back.

After shots – S.S. arrives at AGR Bldg

When you were at the AGR building after shots were fired, do you recall Secret Service arriving at the AGR building?

A Yes.

Q Did you have any interactions with the Secret Service at the AGR building?

A Yes.

Q Can you describe those for us?

A He came over and was asking, where exactly is the shooter? Is he down? Is he dead? How do we get up there, up to the roof?

And then, eventually, I helped him up to the roof by expandable ladder. After I finally figured out how to use the stupid ladder, got him up to the roof.

And that was it, my extent of my dealings with the agent that came over there.

Q Uh-huh.

WHO SHOT CROOKS?

Are you aware of any other shots on Crooks the day of the event other than the Secret Service counter-sniper rifle?

A I was told after the fact that one of our team leaders, [redacted], shot.

Q Shot Crooks?

A Yes.

Q Okay. About when did you learn that information?

A It would've been later that night.

BY [redacted]:

Q Do you know the name of the Secret Service agent who had asked you those questions post-shots-fired?

A No, I don't.

Q Could you describe his appearance?

A I think he was a redhead. He had glasses on. If you have a copy of my

body-camera video, he's fully faced, tall, how high he is. He's on there.

Q Have you heard of any information about whether Secret Service was offered radios from Butler County?

A Yes. So Commander [redacted] said, Hey, can you make sure [redacted] gets a couple of our radios? And that was on the July 11th walk-around. I said, Absolutely. So I went over and I told that to [redacted].

And then I confirmed it back with Commander [redacted] -- because we didn't have the radios on hand at that point in time. I said, Hey, do you want me to come over here first thing in the morning? I was like, I'll make sure he gets those radios, or do you just want me to make sure they're in the command post? And Commander [redacted] is like, Hey, we'll have them in the command post.

So then I relayed that again to [redacted] and said, Hey, the radios are in the command post. First thing tomorrow morning when you get here, head over to the command post and grab a couple radios.

Q What was [redacted] response?

A Hey, thank you very much.

Q Do you know whether those radios were retrieved?

A To my knowledge after the fact, no, they were not.

Q You said they were placed in the local command post?

A Yes.

Q The Butler County EMS trailer?

A Yes.

Q Do you recall where you placed them?

A I didn't place them anywhere. I know there was a box of radios in the command trailer.

BY [redacted]

Q Do you recall on ops 4 or ops 3 making a communication about possibly detaining a suspicious individual?

A Me making? I think someone asked me if they wanted them detained, and I said yes.

Q Uh-huh. Okay. And what, in your mind, would raise to the level of a suspicious person needing to become detained --

A So, I mean --

Q -- for that event?

A I couldn't -- all the information we had leading up to that.

So, at that point in time, I'm relaying information -- we were relaying -- because I think that was from Butler Township, that asked me that. So, at that point in time, we're aware of, Hey, he's been lurking around, he's been looking, he had a rangefinder. So, yeah, we want to talk to you. We want to know what's going on. What are you doing here?

Q Uh-huh.

Do you recall when, or about, that communication about detaining a suspicious individual occurred?

A No, but if you're asking that question, you have the transmissions log, so I'm pretty sure it's somewhere on there.

Q Okay.

BY [redacted]:

Q Had you sighted any drones during your time at the event?

A No.

Q Were you aware of any drone sightings that had been made --

A No.

Q -- that day?

Are you aware of any offers of a law enforcement drone to the Secret Service?

A Yes.

Q Do you know who made that offer?

A I do not.

Q Do you know who received that offer?

A I do not.

Q Do you know the outcome of the offer?

A I think the answer was no, from my understanding.

Q Do you know why the offer would've been made?

A Just for additional asset.

BY [redacted]:

Q I know that you've been in multiple interviews about the July 13th event, you know, and ours today too. But, you know, of the information that we've covered today, you know, is there anything that you feel that we haven't covered that you'd like to address with us today?

A Just the fact that, like, [redacted] relayed to us about the opaque fencing going up. Again, it wasn't his idea. He relayed it as a, Hey, this is what I was told was going to happen.

was told opaque fencing

I think that would've been a very important piece of deterrence. Obviously, it's not going to stop something, but it would've been a very great piece of deterrence. I mean, we used that in Afghanistan to stop sniper fire, and it works. It blocks the view. You can't see out. Can't see in either.

So how high? I don't know how high they would've gone, but that would've -- it

would've definitely made a difference.

Q Uh-huh.

And, you know, for that type of deterrence, for its specific use at the July 13th event, that was raised with Secret Service, [redacted]. Was that at the July 11th walk-through, or was that earlier?

A About the fencing?

Q Yes.

A Yeah, that's what he told us. Like, Hey, it's my understanding is we're going to have this asset here as well --

Q Uh-huh.

A -- the opaque fencing.

Q Uh-huh.

A And we're like, Cool, awesome.

So that would -- where our position was in the AGR building -- I mean, we even asked them -- I believe [redacted] asked them -- said, how high is that going to be? Is that going to interfere with our view? Because if it did, obviously we would've moved to the roof --

Q Uh-huh.

A -- because we wouldn't be able to see in.

And he goes, No, it shouldn't be that high; you should still have view of the inside over top of it.

Q When you arrived at Brady Paul Lane around 1400 hours the day of the event, did you notice at all that that fencing that was described at that walk-through was missing? Or when did you notice that that was missing? Did you know from earlier in the day, before you arrived, that that --

A No.

Q -- fencing was not in place?

A No.

Q So you reported to your post expecting that fencing to be in place, correct?

A Yes. Yeah. When I actually noticed it wasn't there, I couldn't tell you.

Q Uh-huh. On your route to the AGR building after you left your post around 1806, you know, would you have encountered that fencing had it been there?

A Yes and no. So, when I would've parked -- so, like, if they would've put it on the back side of -- I wouldn't have expected them to put it on the back side of, like, along Meridian Road, that fencing. I would've expected them to put it up front, on the side here, along AGR and then along the front side along Route 68.

Q Okay.

A That's where I would've expected them to put it, this back side. Because it would've been behind the stage, so I wouldn't have expected it there.

So I left Brady Paul and made a left on Meridian Road, and then there's a dirt road where the water tower is. I pulled in there. I would've seen it, but that wasn't my focus. My focus was the AGR building.

Q Uh-huh.

After shots fired, after you've encountered Secret Service at the AGR building, do you recall bringing up the fencing issue with Secret Service or any of your colleagues?

A At that point in time, that was bottom of the barrel of things to be concerned about, so no.

Q Okay. Thank you.

[redacted]. We're at time for us, so we'll go off the record. Thank you very much.

[redacted]. Uh-huh.

[Discussion off the record.]

[redacted] All right.

BY [redacted]

Q Sir, you mentioned -- following up with what my colleagues just asked about -- if the opaque fencing was too high, you guys would've had to move to the roof.

A Yeah.

Q In that hypothetical, what would the strategy be to be on the roof and maximize visibility?

A Like, where we would've --

Q Yeah. If the opaque fencing was put up and it was high enough to obstruct your view and you had to be on the roof, how would you position the snipers?

A Like I said earlier, they would've been in the center of the roof, right on the peak.

Q Okay.

When did you know -- and, if you can, I'm going to ask you to tell me about the time of the day. My colleague asked when you knew you would be on traffic patrol as opposed to with ESU, and you said that it was probably the day before July 12th -- in other words, July 11th.

Around what time did you find out that you were with Butler Township that day?

A No, I was trying to get my way onto the ESU side that entire week. So I knew well in advance I was going to be on the Butler Township side.

Q Okay.

A I just -- yeah.

Q So when you did the walk-throughs, you had already known that at least

Lieutenant [redacted] intended for you to be with --

A Yes.

Q -- Butler Township?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever receive the ESU ops plan?

A I did at some point, I think.

Q Did you have a chance to review it and weigh in on it?

A I looked over it. I remember looking over it. But it was -- like, I wasn't working for it, so I didn't really say anything about it or say anything. I wasn't there for the pre-planning that morning. That would've been up to [redacted].

Q And do you recall if there were Secret Service phone numbers included in the ops plan?

A I don't remember.

Q Okay.

Did you ever receive the Pennsylvania State Police ops plan?

A No.

Q Did you receive anything of substance from Pennsylvania State Police?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q I am going to introduce the Butler Township operations plan. You've looked at it already, but we'll officially call this minority exhibit B.

[redacted] Minority Exhibit B was marked for identification.]

BY [redacted]:

Q And you can choose portrait or landscape, whatever you prefer.

A I like this one better. It's bigger.

Q So I had my questions scattered, but I think for the sake of time we could just sort of march through and I'll ask questions about the ops plan as we go through.

So, on page 1, under "Execution," the second sentence says, "Each Member needs to keep their intersection clear when Trump's Motorcade is arriving and departing. Motorcade will not stop. Approximate arrival time of Trump is 1620 hrs."

Do you see that?

A Yep.

Q What were the BTPD officers expected to do between former President Trump's arrival and departure?

A Monitor traffic and/or direct traffic if needed. Alleviate the congestion as much as possible.

Q All right.

Let's move along. I'll ask you to look at page 3, "Detail Encounters."

Just noting it, it says, for a suspicious activity/behavior, "Member will contact the Command Post to advise them of issue and provide description of Actor and Behavior."

Who was expected to be in the command post?

A That would've been, like I said, Commander [redacted], Deputy Commander [redacted], Lieutenant [redacted], and [redacted] from 911, and whoever else was in there.

Q Now, for BTPD, or ops 3, is this expected to be Lieutenant [redacted], or could it be anyone in the command post?

A I think primarily it would've been Lieutenant [redacted], but, at the same time, Commander [redacted] would've -- like, if he needed assets somewhere, he would -- and, obviously, that eventually happened, that he started putting assets to different places.

Q And then it says, to wrap up that section, "If not threatening Member will continue with their detail."

What would happen if it was threatening?

A Well, we would act according with our use-of-force policies.

Q And then the following line, for drones, is telling you guys to report drone sightings.

My colleague asked you already, but you said you didn't see any drones, right?

A Correct.

Q Were you already in position around 3:45, 4:00 p.m.?

A Yes.

Q All right.

Let's keep moving along in the plan. Let's go to the next page, under the list of frequencies. So it says which radio frequency BTPD should use.

And then it says, Detail will not switch over to OPS 4." So is the idea that no one from BTPD should be listening to ops 4?

A No, that wasn't the idea. It was more or less -- it was trying to limit the amount of people on one channel. Because if we're talking for traffic purposes, we shouldn't be on the tactical channel at the same time.

Q All right.

Let's keep moving along. So, about two pages later, there is "Command/Control." And it just -- I don't have a question here, but I asked you about it when I was last with you, and I just wanted to follow up and show you where it is in the ops plan.

Do you see -- if you look at the bottom of the page, the "TEAM400" is the line that I read earlier.

A Yes.

Q All right.

I want to follow up with a few questions about the incident report that my colleagues introduced. I won't introduce it again, but you have it in front of you, page 13 of the incident report?

A Yes.

Q How were you able to determine the times that you included for your section?

A Between my cell phone and radio transmissions that we had a copy of.

Q And then at 5:45, or 1745 hours, when you notified Patrolman [redacted], why did you reach out to [redacted] first?

A Because I knew he was in the area. That was -- so we talked about zones at the start of this whole thing. I believe that was his primary zone, was that area.

Q And at 1751 hours, it looks like that's when [redacted] stops by. And then there's a 7-minute gap until there's a note about Sergeant [redacted] and then Sergeant [redacted].

Is that when you first told [redacted]?

A So that 7-minute gap, that's when I had the phone issues between FirstNet and not FirstNet. So that 7-minute gap, I'm trying to call people and it's not going through.

And at the same time, there's stuff going over the radio, so I don't want to tie up the radio. Because when you talk on the radio, it's short and concise to get your point across. So I had a lot more information that I wanted to explain to Sergeant [redacted] than, "Hey, go look for this guy." He needed to know why and where to look and all that -- all the more information than sitting there on the radio and tying the radio up at the same time that there's people already talking on the radio. So --

Q So, at this point, as far as the people you've informed, you've told the Secret

Service agent next to you, you've told Patrolman [redacted], and that's it until you can get through to others.

A Yes.

Q All right.

I'm going to move off of the ops plans and ask you some other questions.

You mentioned you were near Brady Paul Lane and Meridian Road, right?

A Yes.

Q Were you in your patrol vehicle or on foot?

A I was on foot. I had a vehicle parked behind me, but I was on foot.

Q And what were your responsibilities beyond when the motorcade came?

A So initially it was, Hey, if there's a large amount of traffic -- I don't know if it was Secret Service, I don't know if it was the campaign, I don't know who exactly it was. But Lieutenant [redacted] said, Hey, we don't want a large amount of vehicles directly behind the stage, directly behind Trump, so you may need to -- depending on the traffic, you may need to stop traffic for, I don't know, 5 minutes, let traffic through, stop traffic again.

But it ended up being there was -- by the time the motorcade came through, traffic was alleviated, and that was not needed done, so I was just monitoring the area.

My job prior to that was, don't let anybody in there. When I got there at 2:00, we were letting a few people -- like, [redacted] got there after I got there. So we letting a few people in that were for the rally. But after 3 o'clock, nobody got in. Obviously, no rally-goers were allowed through that area. That was about it.

Q And I understand that Butler County and the adjoining county -- sort of along the farm is where the divider is. Is Brady Paul and Meridian still in Butler County?

A So, yeah, technically. The line goes, like -- I think it goes -- it would've

been, like, straight through the stage. I think that's the line between Connoquenessing and Butler Township.

2 counties split the stage

[3:05 p.m.]

BY [redacted]:

Q So some of the attendees would have been standing in Butler County and some would have been standing --

A Technically. But I think the -- the totality of this thing, from my understanding, the State Police were.

So like when incidents happen at the Farm Show on a regular basis, because the majority of the Farm Show's in Connoquenessing, State Police handle all incidents in -- in the Farm Show, with the exception of like crashes and stuff that occur maybe on the throughway or something of that sort.

Q So it sounds like you have experience with helping with events at the Farm Show. Is that right?

Possible locations

A Yeah.

Q Did you have any concerns about the rally being held at that location?

AIRPORT VS FAIRGROUNDS VS FARM SHOW

A There's a lot of buildings to cover. I heard the fairgrounds were another potential candidate for the rally, which would have been, in my opinion, worse, because there's more buildings up there, more -- more things to watch, more things to look out for. The -- the airport would have been the best.

Q I think my colleague earlier asked you a question, and you said something to the effect of Lieutenant [redacted] told you to stay at your post if there was something -- there was an incident happening. Do you recall that?

A So this was -- this was not with Lieutenant [redacted]. This was -- we were going over different jobs for the preplanning, different jobs and everything for the ESU team. So I asked command staff at that point in time, I said, hey, if there is an incident since -- because I had all my tac gear with me. I obviously had my rifle with me. I had

everything with me.

I was like, do you want me to leave and group up with something if there is a -- if there is an incident? And at that point in time they were like, no, we need you to maintain this, because let's say there's an attack from Brady Paul Lane, I'm essentially the only asset at that point and place.

So if there's a diversion up here, the closest spot is coming -- because the exit is going to be through Brady Paul, so they wanted me to stay there.

Q So you were talking to ESU?

A Yes.

Q And just to sort of back up a bit, I want to talk about communication tools. Did you have a radio that day?

A Yes.

Q How many?

A One.

Q And you were scanning multiple channels, you said three channels?

A Correct.

Q Did you also use standard text messaging?

A Yes.

Q And Signal that day?

A Yes.

Q Did you use email?

A I don't think so.

Q And my colleagues, I think they asked you about why you used Signal. You mentioned there was a group.

When was that group created?

A Last year, the year before, something like that.

Q Do you recall who created the group?

A No. No.

Q Why not just create a standard text message group?

A I have no idea.

Q Well, you didn't create it?

A Yeah, correct.

Q Who else within Butler Township had FirstNet, if you know?

A I believe Detective [redacted]. I think he's the only other one that had FirstNet. I think so. And he came -- he was obviously working the detail, but he came -- he was way after the fact.

Q All right. Now I'm thinking around the time in which Crooks comes into play. Prior to the rally, what did a rangefinder mean to you?

A It could be used for any number of things, like -- prior to the rally?

Q Yes.

A I mean, I obviously -- I use it for primarily -- primarily for shooting. But at the same time, my rangefinder is a set of binoculars. So I can use it as a regular set of binoculars. I just have a button that does the ranging in it.

Q So at 5:35, Lieutenant [redacted] tells the Butler Township police officers to open up the roads. Does that sound about right?

A Uh-huh.

Q And then at 5:38 is when the images of Crooks were first shared and I guess when you first received them?

A Yes.

Q And then at 5:42, we have [redacted] describing Crooks with a rangefinder and

there's also being a bike with a backpack.

And around this time, you were with the Secret Service agent, right?

A Yes.

Q And he's from Arizona, he told you that?

A Yes.

Q Did he tell you his name and you just forgot, you just forgot it?

A Correct. Yeah, he told me. He obviously told me his name. I just couldn't tell you what it is.

Q Any chance you recall it being [redacted] (phonetic)?

A Probably. If you're saying that, probably. [redacted] sounds right. [redacted]. Last name, I have no idea. I couldn't tell you one way or another. But [redacted] sounds right.

Q And I think you told my colleagues that you showed the photo to the special agent at around that time?

A Yes.

Q Did the special agent say what local law enforcement should do if they came across Crooks?

A No. I don't think he said what we should do. It was just, hey, if you guys find him we'll talk to him.

Q All right. So at 5:45, [redacted] told ops 4 that Pennsylvania State Police and the sheriff should be en route.

Were you listening to ops 4 around that time?

A I was. Like I said, I was listening to all four channels. So you have a primary channel. So my -- at that point in time, my primary channel would have been ops 3.

So when someone's keying up on ops 3, that's what I hear. It overrides the other two channels. It's only when someone is not talking on ops 3 was I also able to hear the other two channels.

Q Okay. And I'll proffer to you that my understanding is that there's no activity from 5:35 to 5:50 on ops 3.

A Okay.

Q And if that's true, you would have heard [redacted] at 5:45?

A Yeah. Yeah.

Q Were you surprised that [redacted] didn't say that Butler Township Police was also being sent?

A No.

Q Why not?

A I think he called me. Because I talked to him after the fact. And when I was going through my phone, I saw the fact that he called me. And I said, do you remember why you called me? He's like, no.

So talking to him, I think it might have been make sure I was aware. And I think I might have told him at that point in time, hey, I've relayed to Butler Township guys to go help to look for at the same time. So I think that's -- that was that phone call.

Q So you've mentioned -- and we'll get into some of that timeline -- that you told Butler Township folks to start heading over.

Wasn't that Lieutenant [redacted] role?

A Yeah, it was. But we all work together. I just --

Q Did you expect him to be in the command post around this time?

A I didn't know where he was at. I had no idea. I mean, yeah, he was in the command post, but at the same time, like, I didn't -- I didn't expect him to be in the

command post the entire time, because he had a portable radio with him. And our job was traffic control. So he can essentially do that from any -- any of his positions as long as he's monitoring his radio.

Q So why did you take it upon yourself to send people?

A Based off of the text messages I got earlier, hey, this -- at 1738 of Crooks. Knowing I have guys right on the corner of AGR building and at least -- I know at least one of them can break free and go help look. The more eyes over there the better.

Yeah, I thought there was already people over there, but I'm listening on the radio that we can't find him. So I'm going to -- I'm going to start sending as many guys over there as I can.

Q So you receive an image of Crooks at 5:38. [redacted] sends out a message at 5:45 saying that PSP and sheriffs are going over. You first tell [redacted] around 5:51, and then a few minutes later [redacted] and [redacted]. Why the gap between --

A Because at that point in time, my understanding was, hey, there's -- we have a whole bunch of people. There's -- Secret Service has people over there. So they're looking for him. Our job was traffic control.

It didn't get to a point -- it got -- finally got to a point where, hey, we're still looking for him and we can't find him 10, 15 minutes later. So now we -- maybe we need some additional eyes over there of, hey, help us locate this guy.

Q Did it impact your logic that the roads were open and I think you said traffic was pretty slow at that point?

A Impact my logic how?

Q In your decision to encourage people to go over there.

A Oh, I didn't care about the road at that point. I knew there was this guy that needed to be found, so let's go -- let's go find him.

Q And why not use the radio to talk to the BTPD guys?

A I did. Like I said, I relayed information over there over the radios. I think -- I don't even know. I think it might have been trying to monitor what was going on and at the same time letting them know over the phone, hey, what was happening. If I had two radios, I could still monitor what was going on over here and -- but that wasn't my job. So I'm trying to monitor what's going on here and talk to them at the same time.

Q So if I understand correctly, in order to make sure you could still hear ops 4, you wanted to avoid using ops 3?

A The more that we talk about it, yeah, the more that I -- that's -- yeah.

Q All right. So around 5:54, that's when command finally tells BTPD on ops 3 of the suspicious persons report. Do you recall that being [redacted]?

A Can you just say that one more time? I'm sorry.

Q At 5:54, command notifies BTPD on ops 3 of the suspicious person. Do you recall whether that was [redacted]?

A I believe it was [redacted].

Q And then you mentioned sending 1342 over. Was that [redacted]?

A Yes.

Q I'm sort of skipping some questions, so bear with me.

At 3 minutes after 6:00, you relay that someone from ESU said that Crooks was headed toward Sheetz. How did you get that information?

A I heard it over the radio.

Q And at around the same time, Officer [redacted] says, we have two officers, they have him detained, correct?

What did you understand that to mean?

A I don't think that was at the same -- what was -- you have the actual time?

Q I do.

A I didn't think it was --

Q Not myself personally.

A Yeah, I didn't think it was relatively close at the same time. Maybe 5 minutes difference. Give me at least a little -- yes? Maybe?

Q If you don't recall, that's fine.

A Okay.

Q But do you recall [redacted] saying that there are two officers, they have him detained, correct?

A Yeah. I remember that, yeah.

Q What did you think that meant when he said that?

A I -- so I thought, like, they actually had him. It wasn't until a few minutes later that I realize that -- whether it -- whether it was the shots that happened or whether -- I think there was additional trans -- radio transmissions that happened that made us realize that we actually didn't have him.

Q Yeah. So around 6 minutes after 6:00, you said you have your emergency lights on as you're heading up Meridian Road.

When you turn on your emergency lights, do body-worn cameras turn on automatically?

A So I had them -- my emergency lights on the entire time I was sitting there. So you can have them on. So if you turn them on, initially -- if you're connected to that car, initially it would turn on. But you hit stop, because you're going to be standing there all day.

I wasn't even connected to that car. I was connected to a different car. So

that's why you see in my video -- because I don't even remember hitting my camera. So -- but that's why when I got so close, my camera picked up off another car that I was already connected to and turned on.

Q So someone else essentially turned on your camera by alerting the sirens?

A Well, I think it was [redacted], Detective [redacted]' car that was already sitting over there. That was -- I think that was the last car I was connected to.

Q Okay.

A And so when I got within so many yards, so many feet, it linked up and said, oh, hey, the lights are on, I need to turn this camera on.

Q Got it. So, essentially, if there is a car that a body-worn camera is associated with, if that body-worn camera gets close enough --

A Yes.

Q -- it will activate?

A Yes.

Q Did everyone in BTPD have body-worn cameras that day that was at the rally?

A Yeah. They all have them, yes.

Q And you mention that when you made it to the AGR complex, you instinctively grabbed your rifle as you exited the vehicle.

Did the rangefinder weigh into that decision?

A I think, probably. I can't give you a specific what -- maybe doing this job for 10 years and hearing all the stuff I've heard on the radio and getting the texts that I'm getting, I think maybe all of it combined, I was, hey, maybe I should grab my rifle. I can't give you a specific reason as to why.

Q So 8 minutes after 6:00, Officer [redacted] says that someone is on the roof of the

AGR building. And then command informs BTPD that there's no one from ESU on the roof.

Did you have an understanding why command made a point of saying that to BTPD?

A Because we were inside AGR. That's why. And none of those goes -- like, if they would have moved out onto the roof, I would have expected my guys to call up to command, hey, I'm moving now onto the roof.

Q Why?

A Just because they're mov- -- because their known position is inside. So when you move to an outside-of-a-known position, you need to notify command of where you're going. So that way if something happens, they know where you're at. They know where their assets are at. That way the counter snipers don't mistakenly shoot one of our own guys. So all the proper notifications can be made so an accident doesn't happen.

Q Yeah. So, I mean, sort of what I hear -- and I want to know if it's a fair reading of it -- is sort of like if there's someone on the roof that you need to take aim of, we're letting you know it's not us. Is that the idea?

A More or less. That would be my understanding of the radio transmission.

Q So about a minute later, Officer [redacted] reports on ops 3 that they have him, not in custody yet, but in front of them by a pine tree.

What did you take that to mean, assuming you're listening at this point?

A Honestly, I didn't know. I think I remember saying, what the fuck is he talking about? So yeah.

Q All right. And then we know that about 2 minutes later [redacted] sees Crooks on the roof with a firearm, and then shots fire about 30 seconds later?

A Yes.

Q Have you had any experience with QRF or CAT?

A Q -- what do you mean experience? Like, doing those jobs?

Q Yeah. Have you been a part of those teams at some point?

A So I've been a part of those teams for military purposes. I've been a part of those teams.

Q And just for the record, QRF is quick reaction force?

A Yes.

Q And CAT is counter assault team?

A Yes.

Q Have you served in that role as part of ESU?

A I served at the last 2020 rally, last Trump 2020 rally, I served. It would have been a QRF.

Q That's right, you said that. I apologize.

What is your understanding of when QRF should get mobile?

A When there is a legitimate threat or an active threat towards the candidate.

Q And I realize my next question is in hindsight, but if you're at a political rally and there's someone with a rangefinder that is likely now the same person that's on the roof, is that enough to be considered a threat?

A No.

Q Why not?

A What if it's -- what if it's an autistic kid on the roof who is infatuated with Trump? Now I just launched a SWAT team to go gun-strong on a autistic child.

Q But not to shoot him.

A But that's a use of force in and of itself.

Q So it is -- it would not be a precaution to --

A It would be a overstep to use a SWAT team to go to a suspicious person. To use a SWAT team on anything, just show -- mere showing up is a use of force.

There's different policies and procedures. I have to generally follow the force continuum. So I can't just go out to a suspicious person as a SWAT team and say, pointing a gun at them, what are you doing? That is a overstep of use of force. That is a patrol function at that point in time.

Q So even with a Presidential candidate on stage?

A Yes.

Q And someone on the roof?

A It's obviously an issue that needs addressed, but not a -- not a SWAT team per se yet.

Q And what's the distinction between a SWAT team versus you showing up with your rifle?

A Because I'm on -- I'm on patrol. Like I said, at that point in time, for me personally, I thought something -- like I said, me 10 years, 10 years on, listening to what I was hearing on the radio, something wasn't right, but I didn't know. I didn't know exactly what I was going to get into.

But it's not -- I'm not in full tac gear. I don't have hard plates on. I don't have -- yes, I have a rifle, but I'm still in regular uniform.

Q So it's the uniform more so than the gun that's the use of force?

A I would say, yeah, because you got -- you -- when you see someone in tac gear, a helmet, plate carrier, magazines on the front, you got gas mask, that's not a typical patrol -- you don't typically see that in patrol.

Yeah, I have a pistol. And sometimes, yeah, I get called, I have to immediately

grab my rifle. So -- but that's -- it's more acceptable to see someone in a patrol uniform even with a rifle than it is to see someone in SWAT gear. Because if you see someone in SWAT gear just running up to -- like, you immediately think something bad has happened.

Obviously, hindsight, something bad did happen. But that's not a -- that's not a typical response for a SWAT team.

Q So I know I'm out of time, but briefly, so let's say four to six guys in SWAT gear no weapons drawn is a more significant use of force than one guy with a rifle?

A Yes.

Q I think my colleagues have asked the follow-up questions that I had in mind.

One question for you. Do you have any views on how to prevent something like this from happening in the future?

A Do I have any views? I mean, nothing more than we've already covered as is.

[redacted] Okay. Any questions?

[redacted] Yeah, one question.

BY [redacted]:

Q During the walk-throughs on the 9th and the 10th, which as I understand it from your testimony, was just ESU --

A Yes.

Q -- folks, did you actually enter inside the AGR building?

A Yes.

Q And looked out those second floor windows?

A Yes.

Q And did you go up onto the roof?

A At that point in time, no.

Q Did you ever go up onto the AGR roof --

A No.

Q -- prior to the 13th?

A No.

[redacted]. That's all. Thank you.

[redacted]. We're off the record now.

[Whereupon, at 3:27 p.m., the interview was adjourned.]

Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

I have read the foregoing ____ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

_____

Witness Name

_____

Date

Majority Errata Sheet for the Transcribed Interview of [redacted] dated September 13, 2024

Page	Line	Change
4	11	CHANGE "followups" TO "follow-ups"
12	7	CHANGE "What" TO "How"
48	2	ADD "and" BEFORE "the others"
50	9	CHANGE "followup" TO "follow-up"
52	12	CHANGE "followup" TO "Follow-up"

Minority Errata Sheet for the Transcribed Interview of [redacted] dated September 13, 2024

Page	Line	Change
71	9	CHANGE "[redacted]" TO "[redacted]"